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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A network data processing system, comprising:

a first processing unit, said first processing unit including a plurality of processing subunits, each processing subunit of said plurality of processing subunits associated with a particular priority level of service of a plurality of priority levels of service; and

a plurality of second processing units, each processing subunit of said plurality of processing subunits coupled to a corresponding second processing unit of said plurality of second processing units and operable to:

responsive to a service request, convey said service request to said corresponding second processing unit in accordance with said associated priority level of service.

2. The network data processing system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of third processing units; and

a network communication medium coupled to said plurality of third processing units and said first processing unit, whereby at least one of said third processing units of said plurality of said third processing units is operable to convey said service request to said first processing unit.

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1 3.   The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein said first processing unit comprises a server.

1 4.   The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein said first processing unit comprises a proxy
3 server.

1 5.   The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein said first processing unit comprises a reverse
3 proxy server.

1 6.   The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein each said processing subunit of said plurality of
3 processing subunits comprises a proxy subunit.

1 7.   The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein each said second processing unit of said
3 plurality of second processing units comprises a document
4 storage processor.

1 8.   The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein said service request comprises a request to
3 retrieve a document from a Web page.

1 9.   The network data processing system of Claim 2,
2 wherein each said third processing unit of said plurality
3 of third processing units comprises a client processor.

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1 10. The network data processing system of Claim 2,
2 wherein each said third processing unit of said plurality
3 of third processing units comprises a Web browser.

1 11. The network data processing system of Claim 2,
2 wherein said network communication medium comprises an IP
3 network.

1 12. The network data processing system of Claim 2,
2 wherein said network communication medium comprises at
3 least one of an intranet, LAN and WAN.

1 13. The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein said particular priority level of service
3 comprises a high level of priority.

1 14. The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein said particular priority level of service
3 comprises a medium level of priority.

1 15. The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein said particular priority level of service
3 comprises a low priority of service.

1 16. The network data processing system of Claim 1,
2 wherein said association with said particular priority
3 level of service comprises a global address of at least
4 one of a document residing on a Web page and said second
5 processing unit of said plurality of second processing
6 units.

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1 17. The network data processing system of Claim 16,
2 wherein said association comprises a URL.

1 18. A method for processing a service request in a
2 network data processing system, the method comprising the
3 steps of:
4   receiving a service request at a first processing
5 unit;
6   associating a particular priority level of service
7 with said service request;
8   conveying said service request to a second
9 processing unit in accordance with said particular
10 priority level of service; and
11   processing said service request in accordance with
12 said particular priority level of service.

1 19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said first
2 processing unit comprises a server.

1 20. The method of Claim 18, wherein said first
2 processing unit comprises a proxy server.

1 21. The method of Claim 18, wherein said first
2 processing unit comprises a reverse proxy server.

1 22. The method of Claim 18, wherein said service request
2 includes a request to retrieve a document and a global
3 address in an Internet of at least one of a location of
4 said document and said second processing unit.

1　23.　The method of Claim 18, wherein said second
2　processing unit comprises a document storage processor.

1　24.　The method of Claim 18, wherein said service request
2　comprises a request to retrieve a document from a Web
3　page.

1　25.　The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step
2　of forwarding said service request from a third
3　processing unit.

1　26.　The method of Claim 25, wherein said third
2　processing unit comprises a Web browser.

1　27.　The method of Claim 25, wherein said particular
2　priority level of service comprises at least one of a
3　high level of priority, a medium level of priority, and a
4　low level of priority.

1　28.　The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of
2　associating said particular priority level of service
3　with said service request comprises the step of
4　associating said particular priority level of service
5　with at least one of a global address of a document
6　residing on a Web page and a global address of said
7　second processing unit on said Web.

1　29.　The method of Claim 28, wherein said global address
2　comprises a URL.

1 30. A computer program product on a computer-readable

2 medium, the computer program product comprising:

3   first instructions for receiving a service request

4 at a first processing unit;

5   second instructions for associating a particular

6 priority level of service with said service request;

7   third instructions for conveying said service

8 request to a second processing unit in accordance with

9 said particular priority level of service; and

10   fourth instructions for processing said service

11 request in accordance with said particular priority level

12 of service.